

Introduced by Senator Vargas

February 9, 2012

Senate Joint Resolution No. 16—Relative to the Calexico West Port of Entry.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 16, as introduced, Vargas. Calexico West Port of Entry.

This measure would state that the Legislature declares its support for a private-public partnership to renovate and expand the Calexico West Port of Entry. This measure would also urge Congress to enact guiding legislation to authorize private-public partnerships such as the one proposed for the expansion of the Calexico West Port of Entry.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The Calexico West Port of Entry is located in
2 downtown Calexico and currently consists of approximately
3 102,040 square feet of improvements; and

4 WHEREAS, Federal agencies have considered the need to
5 renovate and expand this facility for many years, having evaluated
6 and planned to move portions of the border entry process
7 approximately three blocks west and expand its operation for
8 pedestrians, automobiles, and, to a lesser extent, some commercial
9 vehicles; and

10 WHEREAS, Planning began in 2005, and millions of dollars
11 have been spent planning the new facility. However, due to the
12 current fiscal situation facing the federal government, as well as
13 local governments nationwide and especially in California, public
14 financing sources are difficult to identify, and it appears that the

1 financing and construction of this much-needed project may be
2 delayed, not only this year, but perhaps for many years; and

3 WHEREAS, The delay in the construction creates national
4 security issues and long waiting times for travelers both entering
5 and exiting the United States to and from Mexico. The long waiting
6 times cause health and safety concerns for all travelers, especially
7 during the extreme heat of summer. The delay also exacerbates
8 environmental issues and economic inefficiencies from the use of
9 the existing facility, which is decades old. It is estimated that the
10 costs of the inefficiencies are well in excess of \$500,000,000 per
11 year to the region; and

12 WHEREAS, Imperial County and the region have extremely
13 high levels of unemployment, estimated to be at least 25 percent.
14 These communities are still affected by the losses caused by the
15 2010 Easter earthquake. The renovation project is estimated to
16 cost \$320,000,000 and take 24 months to complete. The project
17 will create approximately 6,000 jobs, mostly from regional sources;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Many federal agencies, including those within the
20 umbrella of the United States Department of Homeland Security,
21 have procured infrastructure and other capital improvements
22 through the utilization of private capital markets for financing and
23 construction activities. Discussions are currently being held to
24 potentially formulate a proposal of a joint venture with private
25 parties to finance, construct, and lease the proposed renovation
26 and expansion of the Calexico West Port of Entry. The
27 arrangements are contingent upon Congress providing guiding
28 legislation to implement the plan; and

29 WHEREAS, A private-public partnership is necessary to
30 renovate and expand the Calexico West Port of Entry in a more
31 timely manner, create jobs in Imperial County and the surrounding
32 region, and provide for the economic and environmental benefits
33 of the proposed project; now, therefore, be it

34 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
35 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature declares its support for a
36 private-public partnership to renovate and expand the Calexico
37 West Port of Entry; and be it further

38 *Resolved*, The Legislature urges the Congress of the United
39 States to enact guiding legislation to authorize private-public

1 partnerships such as the one proposed for the expansion of the
2 Calexico West Port of Entry; and be it further
3 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
4 this resolution to each Senator and Representative from California
5 in the Congress of the United States and to the author for
6 appropriate distribution.

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